



What is Design Based Learning?

The learning method that uses the power of designing solutions to problems is called design based learning, or just design.

Design learning methods have been proven to be highly effective in engaging and sustaining learning that deepens understanding. These learning methods powered by today's digital learning tools are at the center of a 21st century approach to learning.

What did Students Demonstrate?

In teams, students demonstrated their understanding of community by building a 3-D box town of their community out of recyclable materials such as shoe boxes, tissue rolls, and glass jars.

What was my Thinking behind the Lesson?

I came up with this lesson, after reading 21st Century Skills Learning for Life in Our Times by Bernie Trilling and Charles Fadel. I read about design challenge projects in which students must invent solutions to real-world problems. Students had to do critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration.

My first grade students came up with possible problems the community might encounter and created solutions for those problems.

Problem 1: Falling trees.

Solution: Tree holders

Problem 2: Foxes entering homes

Solution: Cameras for surveillance & invisible fences around homes.

Problem 3: Foxes eating deer.

Solution: Safe fox traps.

Reflection

I have never seen my students so excited or engaged in learning as they were when they were participating in the design challenge project! This was my success. The challenge was overcoming my fear of technology. However, the flip is easy to use. It takes only a few minutes to learn; the students learn even faster!